

REMARKS

Claims 1-7, and 11-18 are pending in the application. Claims 1, 11, and 12 have been amended herein. Favorable reconsideration of the application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

I. REJECTIONS OF CLAIMS 1-7 AND 11-18 UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-7, and 11-18 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,798,997 (Hayward). Applicant believes that all pending claims are allowable for at least the following reasons. Withdrawal of the rejections is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 11, and 12 have been amended herein to further clarify one of the features of the present invention. Specifically, claims 1 now requires that "the controller is operable to insert printer error data representing the error status of the printer, into a data portion of the e-mail message." Claims 11 and 12 contain recitations similar to those of claim 1. No new matter has been introduced by the amendments.

In the "Response to Arguments" section of the Action, the Examiner asserts that the Hayward patent discloses transmission of a peripheral condition. Applicant respectfully disagrees.

The Action specifically cites column 8, lines 26-31 of the Hayward patent as describing transmission of a peripheral condition. The cited portion of Hayward reads as follows:

The condition may be used to indicate when a *consumable* has been exhausted (e.g., paper tray empty) or a *consumable* has reach a predetermined threshold (e.g., magenta ink level low). Preferably, the condition indicates when the *consumable* has reached a threshold in time to reorder before the *consumable* is completely exhausted. (Hayward, column 8, lines 26-31. Emphasis added.)

As described in this cited portion, Hayward in general relates to a system which enables a user to reorder a consumable remotely. However, nothing explicitly, implicitly, or inherently in Hayward suggests letting a maintenance computer know the error status of the printer. Hayward is merely concerned with facilitating inventory control or purchase process for consumables.

By contrast, independent claims 1, 11, and 12 now require that printer error data representing the error status of the printer is inserted into a data portion of an e-mail message. Therefore, Hayward cannot be said to anticipate at least this feature of the claimed invention. As such, the invention of independent claims 1, 11, and 12, and their dependent claims is believed to be patentable over the cited art. Withdrawal of the rejections is respectfully requested.

II. CONCLUSION

Applicant believes that all pending claims are in condition for allowance, and respectfully requests a Notice of Allowance at an early date. If the Examiner has any continuing concerns about patentability of the claimed invention, he is encouraged to telephone the undersigned at 510-663-1100, ext 245.

Respectfully submitted,
BEYER WEAVER & THOMAS, LLP



Haruo Yawata
Limited Recognition No. L0109

P.O. Box 70250
Oakland, CA 94612-0250
510-663-1100, ext. 245

BEST AVAILABLE COPY